(Qty. in lakh ton)

Rice	201.94
Wheat	167.74

(b) The allocation of foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is made @ 35 kg per family per month for all accepted numbers, 6.52 lakh of BPL and AAY families for all the States and UTs on the basis of 1993-94 poverty estimates of the Planning Commission, projected on the population estimates of Registrar General of India, as on 1.3.2000 or the number of families actually identified and ration card issued by each States/UT, whichever is less. Full quantity of foodgrains are allocated to BPL and AAY category as per the above norms. The annual requirement of foodgrains for 652 lakh BPL families (including AAY families) and 7.42 lakh families of KBK Districts of Orissa being allocated at BPL rate @ 35 kg per family per month works out to be 277 lakh tons.

If allocation of foodgrains is considered @ 35 kg per APL family per month, the annual requirement of foodgrains for 1152 lakh APL families would be 484 lakh tons. However, allocations of foodgrains for the Above Poverty Line (APL) families are made depending upon availability of foodgrains in the Central Pool.

The stock of foodgrains presently available in the Central Pool is sufficient to make allocations under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and Welfare Schemes as per existing level of allocations.

(c) For the XIth Five Year Plan, Rs. 149 crore have been allocated. Out of these Rs. 125 crore have been earmarked for godowns to be constructed by the FCI, and Rs. 24 crore for the State Governments of NE Region, Sikkim and Jammu & Kashmir. The funds are released to the FCI in the form of Equity and to the State Governments in the form of Grants-in-Aid.

With a view to augment storage capacity in the country, a new scheme has been formulated for inviting public investment for creation of additional storage facilities for FCI.

Also, FCI has been allowed to hire storage facilities from Central Warehousing Corporation, State Warehousing Corporations and private parties depending upon requirement.

Food coupons under PDS

†594.SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that food coupons have been issued in some States by Government under public distribution system (PDS);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has made any survey to ascertain their outcome after issuing coupons;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(e) whether Government is going to extend this scheme to other States also, and

(f) if so, the name of those States and criteria adopted for their selection?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (f) TPDS is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State/UT Governments. The Central Government has taken the responsibility for procurement, storage, transportation and bulk allocation of foodgrains to the States and UTs. The operational responsibilities for allocation of foodgrains within the States/UTs, identification of eligible families living below poverty line, issuance of ration cards to them and supervision over and monitoring of the functioning of Fair Price Shops (FPSs), rest with the concerned State/UT Governments.

The Government of India has not issued Food Coupons under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). However, Food Coupons have been introduced under TPDS by some of the State Governments on their own *viz*. Andhra Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and Bihar. Andhra Pradesh Government has introduced ration cards with biometric features of family members alongwith Bar Coded Coupons for drawal of rice and kerosene to ensure that there is no impersonation/false accounting in distribution of essential commodities by the Fair Price Shop Dealers. In J&K, the ration card holders are drawing rations on ration tickets through monthly coupons. As reported by Bihar Government, Bar Coded Coupons with distinct features in them are being issued for distribution of ration/kerosene under TPDS.

The Government has not made any survey about food coupons to ascertain their outcome.

Food safety measures

595. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government has constituted a 22 member regulatory authority that would judge and rate the food right from kitchens of luxury hotels to the roadside eating joints according to scientific standards;

(b) if so, whether the authority would finalise guidelines by March, 2009;

(c) if so, whether there would be 56 laboratories coming up at different places around the country where food samples would be sent;

(d) whether health officers have been posted on ports to check illegal import of food items; and

(e) if so, to what extent food safety measures have been achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (e) The Central Government has established Food Safety and Standards Authority of India under Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 *vide* notification No. S. O. 2165 (E) dated 5th September 2008, consisting of 23 members including Chairperson of the Food